

350
The Western Ocean, And that there was a very fine and extensive
harbour on the west side into which this River ran, but the entrance
was very narrow, and a very heavy sea when the wind was from the
Southward, I saw little grass in any part of New Zealand, excepting
in small patches where the land had been cultivated, neither is it
possible for the grass to grow while the Country continues in
State of nature, on account of the immense quantity of Iron which
burthens the soil and smotheres all other Vegetation, In many places
it appeared to feet high and stands as thick upon the ground as
a crop of wheat, There is no part of New Zealand that I saw
so eligible for a settlement as the Country last described, which
lies between the 2 Rivers Wymatter and Wytanghee, The Country
appeared extremely fine and fits for cultivation to the Northward
and Westward, as far as the eye could discern, On my way between
the Banks of Wymatter and the fortified Village, previously
mentioned, I observed no Fire Stone, from the North Cape to the
River Thames, a distance of almost 200 miles, The Rocks appeared
of a very dark Grey, and nearly as hard as a Mill Stone,
And throughout the whole bore nearly the same aspect, The
Country abounds with pipe-clay and Brick earth, I observed no
signs either of Coal or Limestone, With respect to the timbers there
is great variety, fit for building houses, Ships, or any other
purposes, The Pine Tree is by far the largest, Of which I saw
A different Species, but no extensive Forests, The Flax plant is
common all over the Country, It grows on the richest Vallies
and on the poorest hills, and is a hardy annual plant, It
serves the natives for fishing lines, Clothing, Sleeping mats, and
Baskets as also various other purposes, It may be considered one